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# Justice official doubts Israeli denials in Pollard affair

By Bill Gertz  
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A senior Justice Department official said yesterday he doubted Israeli government denials that it sanctioned the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy operation.

John L. Martin, chief of the Justice Department's internal security section, said there would be no deals with Israel to allow Pollard to emigrate, and that two more Israeli officials may be indicted on espionage charges once their grants of immunity from prosecution are revoked.

Mr. Martin, in an interview, also criticized Israel's lack of cooperation in the case.

"The prosecution of Pollard has ended," said Mr. Martin, who is responsible for all espionage cases. "The investigation surrounding his activities and the activities of his co-conspirators has not ended, and will not end until we are satisfied that we have all of the facts."

Pollard, a former Naval Investigative Service intelligence analyst, was sentenced to life in prison March 4 for providing three Israeli officials with thousands of top secret U.S. documents. He had pleaded guilty to espionage June 4. Anne Henderson-Pollard, his wife, received two concurrent five-year terms as an accomplice in the case.

Mr. Martin said the fact Pollard was granted Israeli citizenship, provided with \$50,000 in a Swiss bank account and flown to Israel and Paris for meetings with his Israeli case officers was evidence that the operation probably was controlled by senior Israeli intelligence officials.

"Every intelligence operation has built into it what the professionals call 'plausible deniability,'" Mr. Martin said. "The more we learned of what Pollard and the others did — what the Israelis knew, the amount of money involved, the volume of information, the number of people involved in this operation — the more implausible the Israeli denials became."

Controls within Israel's intelligence service on expenditures of money, and official documents, such as the Pollards' Israeli passports, and security arrangements used in

the case would make the Pollard operation "virtually impossible" to keep from senior officials of Israeli's intelligence establishment, he said.

"When you come across a source as productive, as valuable as Pollard was in this operation, there's no way that you can keep that from your boss," he said.

Officials in Israel provided only "selective" cooperation and could have done "considerably more" in the U.S. investigation of Pollard, Mr. Martin said in describing the espionage case as one of the most serious in U.S. history.

"Their cooperation, the extent to which it was given, was helpful," he said. "But it could have been better. They did not aggressively uncover facts and volunteer information. Everything we got, we had to press hard for."

Israeli Gen. Aviem Sella, a third official involved in the case, was indicted by a federal grand jury last week, but remains in Israel.

Two other Israeli officials named as co-conspirators in the case,

Rafael Eitan and Irit Erb, were granted immunity from prosecution in 1985, but failed to abide by an agreement with U.S. officials to cooperate fully in the case, he said.

As a result, the Justice Department wants to void the immunity grants, Mr. Martin said.

The Israeli government has been under pressure to fully investigate the Pollard case. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has refused and said last weekend that "the Pollard affair is closed" but the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, will conduct a full-scale investigation.

Officials in Israel insist the Pollard spy ring was a "rogue operation" carried out without the authority of senior Israeli officials. Private groups in Israel have begun raising funds in an effort to seek Pollard's release and deportation to Israel.

Mr. Martin called the Pollard affair a "terrible mistake" for the Israelis since it has damaged the relationship of trust between allies.

"As we progress in trying to iron this out, the Israeli behavior becomes less and less understandable — their promoting Sella and giving him a new and more important command, and in promoting Eitan," Mr.

Martin said. "Their actions and the facts that we gather make it very, very difficult for us to put this behind us."

After fleeing the United States, Gen. Sella was promoted from the rank of colonel and given command of Israel's largest air force base. Mr.

Eitan, a former Israeli counterterrorism official who also escaped, was made the head of Israel's largest government-run chemical industry.

Mr. Martin said Pollard has requested that the Justice Department allow him to go to Israel, although there have been no official Israeli pleas for his release.

"Pollard will not be released — we don't trade Americans, and he is going to serve his prison time," Mr. Martin. "I don't foresee any possibility of Pollard being exchanged."

It would require a presidential pardon for Pollard to be freed and permitted to emigrate to Israel — an unlikely prospect, Mr. Martin said.

"Even if we were willing to do such a thing, the Israelis have nothing to trade for him," he said.

On the damage to U.S. national security, Mr. Martin said Pollard abused his authorized access to classified information to steal "a wide range" of secret documents and information, which were passed on to the Israelis.

The information compromised by Pollard included top secret intelligence sources that were providing information to the United States about the Middle East, Soviet weaponry used in the region and details on Israeli adversaries, Mr. Martin said.

"I would say in terms of harm, it was a horrible case and it will rank among the nation's top espionage cases," Mr. Martin said.

Mr. Martin said Pollard's "insatiable appetite" for examining classified documents alarmed fellow employees and led the FBI to arrest Pollard in late 1985.